

Point three



November 1993 Price 30p

The magazine of **TOCH**



**Warden Manor Reports / Wendover/Australia Links
International Project / A Week to Remember
Your Letters / Branch News / Reflections**

Point three

The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

Point three is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per annum. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

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Cover: Central Councillor, Constable Ian Moore, receiving the Hari Joshi Memorial Award for outstanding community service

Photo: Ruth Boyd



Point three is printed on recycled paper

A registered charity No. 211042

*And I said, 'There is still the river, and still the stiff, stark trees;
To treasure here our story but there are only these';
But under the white wood crosses the dead men answered low,
'The new men know not Beaucourt, but we are here - we know.'*

A. P. Herbert 1880-1971

Remembrance

Remembering the dead of the two World Wars, which we do every year, is also to remember human generosity and to share in an overwhelming sense of suffering and sacrifice. As a child this became my first experience of guilt. I used to take a small part in the Remembrance Day Service at the church of my home village in Berkshire, by putting anemones in brass vases in front of the memorial plaques for 17 to 19-year-old local boys who had died in that Hell on earth, the Western Front of the Great War. Whenever I see these beautiful flowers I still feel a sense of awe, and they are too precious for me to have in my home. For me they belong to the bravest of all people, who died in numbers too great to comprehend.

I remember the discordant notes in the voice of an old soldier, his Victoria Cross in pride of place among a row of other medals, as he spoke the words, 'They shall grow not old...'. The words will always make me feel a sense of anguish for humanity. It was a privilege to witness a ceremony each year which seemed to be a tribute to honour and integrity; standing up for right. Mourning our dead and their wasted potential gives us a sense of obligation to do the best we can with the gift of life we have been given. Remembrance Day had a profound impression on my formative years and set a standard for life.

At the time of writing there seem to have been too many deaths and too many personal deaths. Tom Long, who helped to sub-edit the magazine, died rather unexpectedly on 27 September, although he had been in poor health for some time. At the end of the same week there was the death of Douglas Bennett, a close friend of Tubby Clayton. Douglas had a gentle blend of dignity and humility that made one feel refreshed; a sense of being in the presence of goodness, the more remarkable because he was constantly racked with the pain of a body which would scarcely function.

It is the inspiring qualities that human beings can manifest, that give us hope. I recently witnessed a tribute to one of our younger members, and was proud to hear the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary speak in glowing terms about Ian Moore and his work with Toc H. Ian was presented with the Hari Joshi Memorial Award, as the policeman who had made, 'the greatest contribution to community relations within the city of Bristol'. His photograph is on the front cover of this issue.

Ian works with families in the inner city of Bristol and personal risk is an everyday reality of his life. He was embarrassed to receive his award, but gratified that his police colleagues had acknowledged the importance of inner-city community work. We read distressing reports about the young in today's newspapers and yet there are, among that generation, the most inspiring and generous of people who do not feel a need to seek recognition for their work. Some are already members of Toc H. What a future we will have if we can attract many more.

Ruth Boyd

A Spiritual Link

Thanks to the world-wide fellowship of Toc H, Australia came a lot nearer to Wendover on Sunday 12 September. The branch in Wendover, known as the Chiltern Hills Branch, were a bit surprised to receive a letter from Harold Clay, the Honorary Secretary of Toc H Western Australia.

He explained that this year their Area was the host for all Toc H members in Australia for the nationwide Family Festival from 8 - 15 September. As part of those celebrations they planned a church service of rededication on the Sunday, which would be led by the Assistant Bishop of Perth. At the end of the service, at 3.30 pm, they would light the lamps of all Australian branches present.

As a new idea to add to the fellowship of this event, they were writing to us to invite our branch to share in a spiritual link by taking Light ourselves on the same day. There was one snag - they wanted it to happen at the same time, so that our lamp and all of theirs would be lighted together. Yes, you've guessed it, when it's half-past three in Western Australia it's 8.30 am in the UK! Fortunately everyone in the branch thought it was a really first rate idea, and well worth the lost lie-in.

Our chairperson Nancy Kilburn, invited the branch to her home so that we could take Light together and think of our Australian friends. Because Nancy lives in the country, we decided to make a morning of it - take Light, each bring breakfast to share together and then go for a walk in the Chiltern Hills. Eight of our twelve members were able to be present. We all agreed that our own fellowship was jointly reinforced as we reflected on the link between our little group and the major Toc H service being conducted far away in the southern hemisphere. Our thoughts really travelled at the speed of Light!

Harold had sent us a message from the Toc H Western Australia Area and in our reply we sent them greetings and told them something of the history of our branch and its members. We also gave details of the charity shop we run in Wendover. We ended by sending

them our love and expressing the hope that we might maintain links with them in the years ahead. We certainly intend to do that - we've already written to them and sent them a tape and are thinking of planning some sort of 'exchange'.

The tape was a real coincidence. The previous Wednesday, (8 September), members of our branch had attended a Toc H evening in Milton Keynes, where staff member Adrian Dudman, and people from various Buckinghamshire branches, had been promoting Toc H activities in the county to a large invited audience. A reporter from 'Three Counties Radio' was also there and he interviewed three Toc H members, including our chairperson. We knew it was being broadcast on the Sunday morning and planned to record it. We listened to what proved to be a satisfying extra contribution to our Toc H morning, just after we had finished our small service. Of course we made a copy and sent it to our new cobbers!

John Kilburn (Branch Pilot)



Encouraging More Involvement in Toc H

Paul Smith, an active member of the South Staffs and Wolverhampton Follow-Up Group talks to Ruth Boyd about his involvement with Toc H and commitment to the future of the Movement.

The manner in which I first got involved with Toc H is still one of the best ways of recruiting people to the Movement. I was sitting in the pub having a drink, when Toc H member Paul Dewsbury approached me and asked me to join a sponsored walk to help disabled children.

I met Chris Williams on the walk; she is currently Chairman of the West Midlands and South Wales Region. She asked me to go along to a meeting and I have been involved with Toc H ever since. I joined when I was 19 and am now 30. I had been on a lot of projects, when I was approached by Wolverhampton Men's Branch three years ago to take over the Wolverhampton Camp from them. This involves taking 30 disadvantaged children on two seaside holidays. Some of them have had quite difficult home lives and a lot come via Social Services. We take them to North Wales.

One of my most important responsibilities in Toc H is with follow-up. The basic idea for the follow-up group that has been set up in South Staffs and Wolverhampton District is to contact first-time participants on Toc H events as well as coordinating events to offer them, so that they can do more work with Toc H as soon as possible. The group think up project ideas, such as a weekend working on the nature trails at Cannock Chase. We get all the names of people we know who might get involved and encourage them to come and join us in Toc H and go on to do other projects. If you are not there to



encourage them, then you are not going to get them along. By encouraging people and showing them that this does work, then you gain their respect and interest.

Five people meet regularly as the follow-up group, and each person takes roughly five names. This means we can keep in contact with 25 people through letter, phone or visits at least every two or three weeks and give them information about opportunities for getting involved with Toc H activities. Each person in the group organises one simple event every five months for people to come along to if they wish. These events are put together with normal district activity, branch events and projects, to compile a programme which is sent out. This guarantees that there is one Toc H event per month that people can participate in if they so choose.

My personal involvement in follow-up involves writing to

between 30 and 40 people a year with all the information about what is going on in Toc H in the local area. This usually results in a phone call and an offer to come along to a particular event. At the moment we have got a group forming in Penn, which I have been in constant touch with for the last 12 months. There are eight people and they have got friends who want to get involved as well.

Whenever I say that we are going to do something, they all come along and help. They have helped me a great deal with this year's camp, and helped fundraise and provide games and things for

the children. I am in the nice position where they are demanding more to do!

'We need to interact more'

There is a parallel group of young people called The Venturers who do similar sort of work to Toc H. They offer weekends away, activity weekends looking after children. We need to get mutually involved. Toc H has to interact much more with other organisations if it is to have any hope of growth. There is a mutual self-interest in this. They need us as much as we need them. Some of these charities are offering a lot more than we are at the moment and we will lose out if we don't get involved with them.

We need to offer a lot more support to volunteers and members. What seems to happen too often with our leaders is that they cannot respond adequately when needed. They often don't know what to do when there is a

phone call about a problem, for example. We need to build into the whole Toc H framework the idea of offering support and actively encouraging involvement. The way we train leaders on projects needs to be changed, because it is not adequate in coping with running holidays with children. You can't cope with 17 children unless you have experience. It is all a question of getting people involved and encouraging them to take responsibility. Other charities offer more weekend scope and evening events. Toc H never actually do anything in the evening, except to hold branch meetings.

A lot of people nowadays can't get time off work at weekends, which is when the bulk of

activities in Toc H seem to take place. Toc H have got to offer more community service. We delude ourselves into thinking that we are heavily involved as a Movement in community activities. It is simply not true. What Toc H does is a drop in the ocean. We need to do much more, in order to get people to take us seriously.

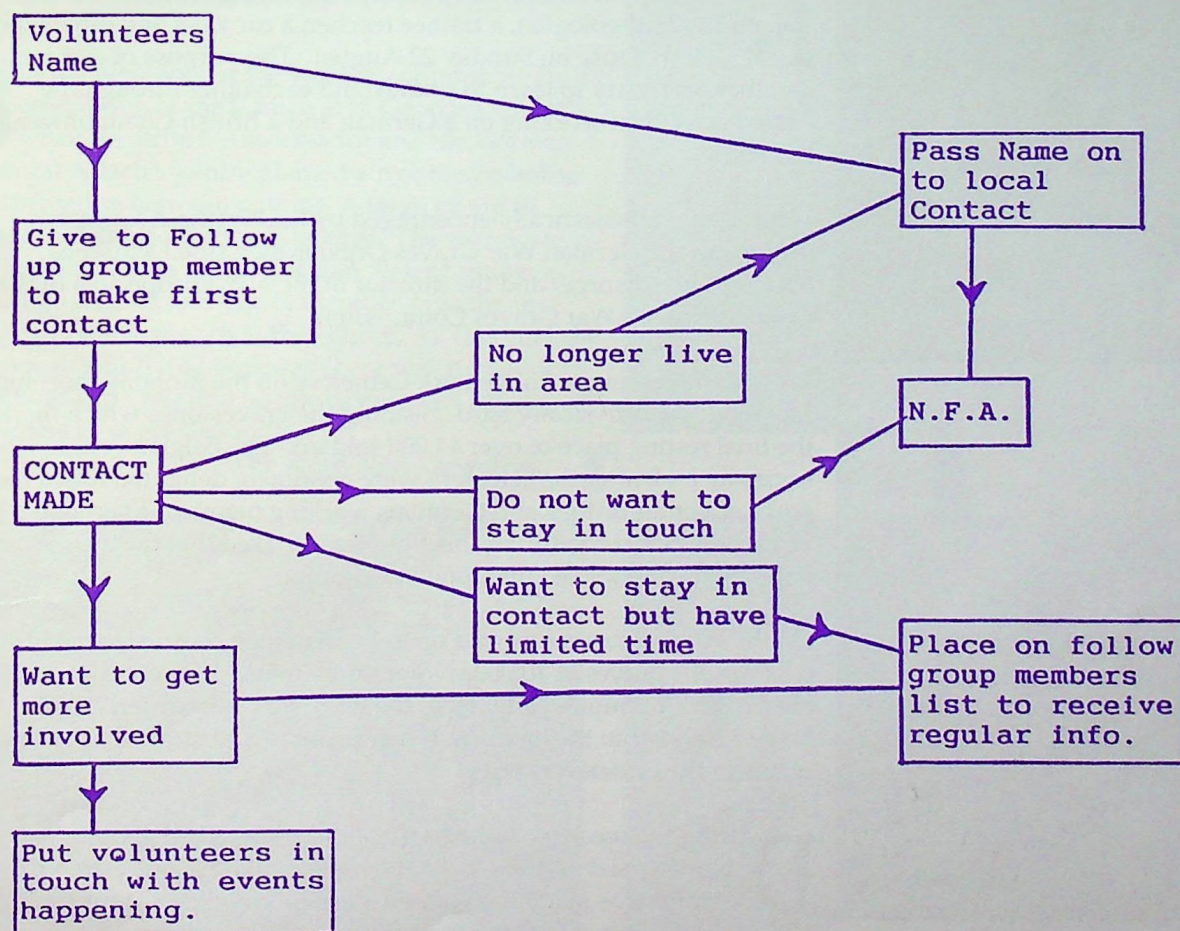
If you want to go out there and shout your mouth off about Toc H, you've got to get involved in what is going on in that area. We have got a lot of people out there and they want us to start giving them things to do. As for membership itself, we have too many restrictions. We should be more flexible and welcoming.

Once you get people involved and

they start enjoying themselves, that is the time to start putting more of Toc H into their lives. But you have to let them get involved in it first. If you start saying we have got to take Light and do home-going prayers, they are seriously put off and you lose them.

Once they are committed they don't question these aspects, because they realise it is just part of it all. But I think we lose a lot of people who could be members by thrusting religion in their faces at the very beginning. Another problem is the lack of membership support. You can get people to come forward and go on projects but you then need local support to sustain their interest and involvement. The only way to do that is to build up new branches or groups.

Follow-up - A Flow Chart of Process



A Week To Remember

'We all felt the same; this had been wasted life, but no bitter feelings arose either on the German or the British side, though it has been the first time that a succeeding generation of the "entente cordiale" have worked together on a cemetery of the former enemy.'

Peter Luning



The group at Langemark cemetery
(44,000 dead)

A Jewish writer has written that remembrance is the starting point for reconciliation and I am much in agreement with that sentiment.

Remembrance isn't just for elderly men and ex-soldiers. It is for every man, woman and child alive to pay due homage to such sacrifice - and not to forget. As chaplain of Talbot House and St George's leper, I live surrounded by the remains of hundreds of thousands of men killed in battle. And that makes me very conscious of the need to remember both what they sacrificed and the pain they endured. There was unspeakable suffering and perhaps my Celtic temperament adds to my passion about the waste and hurt of the Great War. But I want to *do*

rather than just *think* and *talk*. For me Toc H needs to be a Movement of doing rather than one of pontification and pronouncement. It was with very strong feelings therefore that I decided to try and make a gesture towards the future in honouring those who died, by bringing together people from the countries that had taken part in the war.



Fifteen German and British people comprising ordinands, a law student, a theologian, a trainee teacher, a car valet and others met at Talbot House on Sunday 22 August. The purpose of our coming together was to try to learn to understand each other through the shared activity of working on a German and a British Commonwealth cemetery.

I had been enthusiastically encouraged by the Northern European director of the German War Graves Organisation (the Deutsches Kriegsgraberfursorge) and the director of the NW Europe area of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

We began working at Langemark Cemetery on the Monday morning. The work was physically hard, cleaning the gravestones which marked the final resting place of over 44,000 soldiers. The Belgian couple who normally look after the cemetery were genuinely delighted to see the party of young Britons and Germans working together. Everyone who visited the cemetery during this time was amazed that this was actually happening, and for the first time in Belgium.

On the Wednesday we moved on to Lijssenthoek cemetery which contains the graves of 10,000 soldiers from many different countries of the British Commonwealth. Here the work was very different. We helped the staff in the end of summer pruning and clearing of the many plants in the cemetery.



The British Ambassador & German Cultural Attaché
planting a tree of reconciliation at St. Georges leper

During the week we talked a great deal. We talked about controversial matters and deliberately talked about war. No attempt was made to avoid the particularly difficult subjects, like Hitler, the bombing of Dresden or the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on post-1918 Germany. We talked, we listened and we began the



process of understanding which should exist between 'different' countries. We came to understand that being different is perhaps something to celebrate, not to be afraid of.

The week broke new ground. Never before had *anyone* other than the paid staff worked at these cemeteries. The fact that British and Germans did it together left many people amazed and overjoyed. There were tears in the eyes of at least one visitor who met us. It was a tremendously moving thing to hear the Ode to Joy from Beethoven's 9th symphony sung together in German around the Talbot House piano.

But the high-spot of the week was undoubtedly a celebration of the Cameo at St George's Church when the British Ambassador and the German Cultural Attaché jointly planted a tree to symbolise reconciliation between nations. A large group of people assembled for the Eucharist. The words were in English and the music German. Peter Luning, a theology student and Toc H member, was the first German ever to preach at the church. All this, and the European flag flying outside! There was tremendous goodwill and I felt it to be one of the most privileged experiences of my life.

The Revd Neil Llewellyn ■





International

Sixteen young people from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the International Project based at Poperinge and Wijschate. Based at and there was a significant amount of clearing work on the path

Kathryn Park, at 13 the youngest participant, describes one of the unforgettable experience. I met lots of lovely people and as

Nick Howden, project leader

Today it is hard to imagine the area around Poperinge and Ieper as the scene of terrible carnage. But just look a little closer - you can't drive more than a few hundred metres without encountering one of the hundreds of cemeteries or memorials; look closer still and you will see block-houses, demarcation stones and mine craters. Now look for shells that have been found by the local farmers and placed at the roadside for collection. Yes, looking back is easy - or maybe easy is the wrong word; any thoughts of a conflict that killed millions are never easy. But you know what I mean, how can we look forward in an area where our thoughts are constantly directed back, and how can we best utilise our own piece of this history - Talbot House? Well maybe the

International Project is one route into the future.

Bowler hats and umbrellas on the hat stand, clogs behind the back door, a smell of garlic throughout the whole house, Hercule Poirot strolling in the garden past chairs with towels on them - this could have been Talbot House during the first week of August if just a few of us had fitted our national stereotypes. These were some of the prejudices we were hoping to challenge by bringing together a mixed group of Europeans to share together in a week of conservation and conversation.

With volunteers joining us from all over Europe (Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and Britain in case you haven't worked out all

the stereotypes), we had quite a spread of arrivals on the first evening, but once everyone had arrived I knew we were in for an excellent week. There were no embarrassed silences around the dinner table, instead there was a lively level of banter and much goodwill.

Work started the following morning, building new steps leading up to the front gate, repairing old steps around the upper path, the perimeter fence was straightened and tonnes of brambles and weeds were removed. We were busy from the moment we arrived to the second we left. Even the drizzle and then the torrential rain didn't slow down our work rate; it probably made us work even harder!



al Project 1993

y, France and Great Britain met at Talbot House in August for the third
at Talbot House, the week involved discussions about war and peace
aths at the Pool of Peace to make them more passable and accessible.

he best experiences of her young life. 'I am very glad I went. It was an
as the week progressed the age differences seemed to disappear'.

nder, describes the week's events:



But the back-breaking work was only part of our programme. Working at the site of one of the largest mines exploded during World War One, we already had a constant reminder of the past conflict, but this was still just a small fraction of the complete picture. We therefore spent a whole day visiting some of the memorials and cemeteries in the area and this really brought home to us the appalling horrors that were experienced in those bitter years. We weren't afraid to cry, and at places such as Hill 62 we did so openly. The day finished in Ieper, with a fair providing a strange contrast to the rest of the day, and a much welcomed distraction.

A programme of all work and

'heavy' discussion would have been unbearable, so we planned some lighter times with a day trip into Bruges and a cycle ride around the 'flat' land of Belgium. I think some would say it was harder work than the digging at the Pool, but we all agreed that it was worth it just to visit the Peace Carillon at Messines church. This was perhaps when we first felt the positive visions which had grown from the history of the area - we had seen Ypres rebuilt, but it was Albert Ghekiere's personal quest for the Peace Carillon that gave us the human aspect we needed.

So we looked back, but we also looked forward. Each evening we gathered together in the Upper Room - spending time just looking back over the

day and then moving on to discuss some relevant issue - from the futility of war to the throw-away labels we give to people.

But I think the most positive time for breaking down the barriers within the group was the unstructured social time. We had games of volleyball in the back garden - using one of the benches as our 'net', we had traditional sing-songs both around the piano in the house and by candlelight in the garden. Oh, and an International 'Hug Day' just before we all departed, made all the good-byes incredibly difficult - try driving a mini-bus to Dunkirk with tears in your eyes.

Nick Howden



Your Letters

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The Bigger the Better!

Regarding badges and their size, I think a better 'badge' is the sweatshirt and tee shirt with the Toc H logo (especially the new Project ones with the very big lettering) which I wear most of the time. I am frequently asked what the letters stand for and a few people are surprised Toc H is still going (but that is what a low profile does for you!).

On the subject of prisoners, John Adams (*Point three*, September), I think that taking serving prisoners on Toc H projects is a great step forward. On my last project there were two prisoners and I think they both benefitted from the experience, especially the one from Lancaster - we write to each other regularly.

Roger A Gadd
Stockport

News From Comunidad Infantil Villa Juarez

Currently we have about 35 children, having had a few of the older ones return from Yecora, while five of our younger children, who were legal wards of Isaac have moved into the mountains with him. Our kids now range in age from two-year old Miriam, to Gina and Gaby, both 16. Our blind, paraplegic boy, Panchito, is still with us and he continues to be an inspiration to us all, as well as being one of our most effective public relations workers - everyone who meets Panchito is immediately taken with his wonderful happy spirit, his enthusiasm and his good nature. All the children are well and we can see a tremendous improvement in their health over the last couple of years. This is partly as a result of our having a more varied and substantial diet, daily doses of vitamins (thanks to Canadian Medicine Aid Programme), and probably in no small way due to our having a constant water supply, from the well which was installed a year ago.

We are now in the process of converting two dormitories to provide two 'family units'. Each of these will have 'houseparents' (not necessarily a husband/wife team), who will have their own room. The 'family' will range in age, and we will try to

My Toc H

by
Ron Haresign
Bramley Branch

*I am a Toc H member
Of that I have no doubt,
But people keep on asking me
What's Toc H all about?*

*I'm not so sure, I often say
I'll tell you what I can,
Of Talbot House and Poperinge
That's where it all began.*

*On entering Talbot House
Men didn't go by rank,
The Reverend Tubby Clayton
For this they had to thank.*

*He listened to their problems
And what they had to say,
Upstairs he built a chapel
For those who wished to pray.*

*The soldiers who went there
Will surely now be gone,
But to us Toc H members
Their memories linger on.*

*So when we light our Toc H lamp
We say a little prayer,
For those who gave their lives for us
To let them know we care.*

*I have not told you very much
So if you have a yearn,
Please join Toc H at any branch
I'm sure there's more you'll learn.*

The Value of Badges...

Some years ago several ladies from the Banbury Joint Branch went to London for the Toc H Festival at the Royal Albert Hall - the occasion on which the Queen Mother took Light and when she said 'Light', the lights were turned on!! They travelled by bus and overheard a bus conductor say, 'I wonder what those women are doing wearing those little teapots'.

Gladys Burt
Banbury

keep siblings together. We feel 'families' are better than the kids being in dormitories and staff are enthusiastic about the changes.

More and more locals are visiting on a regular basis and often bring sacks of whatever produce happens to be in season. The children enjoy having visitors and good friendships are developing. We have particularly enjoyed visits from a church youth group from Obregon. The young people play games with the kids and bring them goodies. They also took the kids to the fun-fair and park in the City.

Bob Mason
Hogar De Refugio Infantil Villa Juarez
Apartado Postal No 908
CD Obregon, Sonora
Mexico

Bob first became involved with orphanage work while living at Toc H Mark XI in Leicester some 30 years ago. He and his wife Annette, made a 10-year commitment to work as full-time volunteers managing an orphanage in Mexico, 400 miles south of Tucson, Arizona, on the Gulf of California. Bob writes that two members of Toc H are very active in Mexico and letters from members to the address above would be much appreciated.

Toc H and Albania

It is thrilling to know that Toc H has got a foothold into Albania; I read the article on page 9 of October's *Point three* with tremendous interest. I would like to know what we can do as a Movement to help Albania in general. The situation there seems even worse than life in Romania.

I would love to see Toc H making an exerted effort to help and sadly realise that but for age, a lot of older stalwarts would be among the first volunteers to help. We used to be a pioneering Movement!

C Cardale
Totnes

The North African Campaign

I am trying to establish a retirement career as a fiction writer and would like to base a story round a report in the News Chronicle newspaper of 1942. If a fellow member in the area of the newspaper library, at Colindale in North West London, had some time to spare, perhaps they could do some research for me? The event I am interested in researching was during the North African Campaign of 1942. American troops had come across a young orphan known as the 'gazelle boy'. There was a newspaper report with a photo. I would be very interested in hearing from readers if they had any recall of this story.

H Sydney Cox
(Author of *Which Lamp?*) 12 Esplanade, Burnham
Somerset TA8 1EE

Come and See

In the opening sentence to a foreword in Alec Churcher's book on Toc H, *Stirring the Mixture*, the Revd Herbert Leggate says, 'Toc H is based on the belief that all men and women are finer than they appear to be. Normally we act as though our only business in life is to get as much as we can and to give as little as possible. In the jungle that life appears to be it is "every man for himself". Yet, whenever calamity comes people act as though sharing their possessions and powers and caring for those who seem helpless were the only things that matter. To their surprise, they discover that living in this way is exciting, adventurous and satisfying. But why, oh why, only in times of catastrophe?'

When I joined Toc H some 40 years ago someone said to me, 'Come and See', and I had my initial introduction into this Movement which has a uniqueness in the method by which it seeks to work. I believe that Toc H is creating deep and lasting friendships between people who on the surface may seem poles apart, thus uncovering the facades, which Herbert Leggate implies in his statement.

Tubby was undoubtedly a forerunner of the method which Toc H has sought to use over the years, and which surfaced in Poperinge in the First World War. Out of this intense experience grew so much that was to enrich the lives of so many. The lives of members today represent a minute part of all that Toc H has achieved. I believe that Toc H is an instrument that has carried the invitation into the lives of countless men and women, enabling them to discover where God lives, in unexpected places all over the world.



It has been said that the ultimate significance of any man's life is his creativeness in the lives of others. This is a challenging statement, but a goal to try to achieve. If we reflect on Tubby's life and that of many others in the Movement, and try to measure them in terms of this statement, then we will discover a wealth beyond telling, which I believe gives us tremendous confidence for the future. People then are the real and lasting assets of the Movement.

Edgar Stickley
Rock, Kidderminster

BRANCH NEWS

An Important Announcement

The Revd Neil Llewellyn writes from Ieper (Ypres) that the Remembrance Sunday, 14 November, BBC Radio 2 broadcast from 7 - 9 am is coming live from St George's, Ieper. Neil himself will give a 'Thought For The Day' and an interview, and will be giving Toc H a good mention. This is plenty of notice for you all to get up early!



The South East Region held a reception on 8 September at the Cathedral of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, to help promote interest in Toc H in the Bucks area. Over 100 guests included local MP, Barry Legg, Deputy Mayor, Edward Ellis and his wife, South East Regional Chairman, Doug Parker and representatives of 45 different statutory agencies, who expressed great interest in the work of Toc H, particularly Cameos and Projects. Everyone felt it was a wonderful idea to get all the agencies together, not only to learn of the work of Toc H, but to meet each other. Such was the success of the event that members of social services and the police force were still there as the doors closed at 9pm!



Congratulations to Margaret Hudson of Huddersfield District Branch, who led the 100ft mass abseil on 11 September off the Humber Bridge, at the age of 74. This was in aid of the Spastics Society and Muscular Dystrophy. Margaret has been a member of Toc H for 54 years and is the sister of deceased member, Jack Kirby. She has been wheelchair bound since 1982 with cerebellar ataxia and slight muscular dystrophy. Members like Margaret are an inspiration to us all. *Photo reproduced by courtesy of the Yorkshire Post.*



In the 70th anniversary year of Toc H's use of the site, 50 members and friends joined National Chaplain, the Revd Alan Johnson, at the blessing and re-opening of Claytonfield, Adlington, near Stockport on 18 September.

Over the years many different groups have taken advantage of the beautiful position of this camp site. But time had taken its toll on the buildings, which had become severely dilapidated. Now one large hut for cooking and eating has been completely refurbished and a hut for sleeping accommodation will be on site in the new year. A great deal of branch work has gone into the project.

Branches in the Dorset Border District report a successful holiday project at Lindridge House, Devon. Six children from the Chard area were left with memories of kite flying at Haytor Rocks on Dartmoor, the Paignton to Kingswear Steam Railway journey, the Riviera Swimming Centre and the Woodlands Leisure Park. The branches funded and organised the entire event themselves and would like to express appreciation to the volunteers, the co-leaders and the mini-bus driver. Thanks also to Janet Russell, leader of the Project Support Group for all her hard work.

South East Regional Members, (late Broadwater Branch), recently presented a clock to the Hostel for Homeless Men in Worthing. The Hostel and Night Shelter were the inspiration of the Revd Rupert Bacon, Padre of Goring Branch. The inscription on the clock reads: 'This clock is the gift of the women of Toc H from Worthing and District. May those who live in this house be blessed'.



Milford-on-Sea Joint Branch have been holding weekly Toc H lunches for 25 years. Retiring Director, John Mitchell, is seen here cutting the celebration cake.



Freda Wilson, cuts the 'surprise' cake which was presented to her at Alison House to mark 30 years of being Pilot of **Higham Ferrers Women's Branch**.

Branch members Betty and Ivy write:

'With her deep faith and down to earth approach to life we all appreciate what she has done for us and our Branch. Keep up the good work Freda!'



Connie Pring and Greta Lynn, secretaries of the **Friends of Talbot House** report on a visit to the triennial Hop Festival celebrations in Poperinge: 'A happy party of 29 'Friends' and members travelled to Poperinge in September. We enjoyed trips to Bruges, Ghent, Ieper and Veurne as well as joining in all the festivities in Poperinge. We also managed to go shopping with Evelyn Dives for a bookcase for Talbot House, in memory of her husband Frank who died earlier this year. During the last 12 months the 'Friends' have paid for the lounge to be redecorated and for curtains in the dining room and lounge to be replaced. We plan to redecorate a room or two each year with colour co-ordinating curtains, bedspreads and wallpaper. The Friends now number over 300 and we are grateful for their continued support'. *If anyone would like to join, or would like more information, please contact Connie or Greta, c/o Headquarters.*



Undeterred! A story about how determination can reap its own reward was sent in by Eric Page from **Chalfonts Branch**: 'Eleven members of the Branch enjoyed a trip to Christmas Common where they missed member, David Watts. Mud underfoot and uncertain weather then deterred the brave troupe from taking the Chiltern Sculpture Trail. They also missed David again at the car park in Watlington, but, do not fret, because they caught up with him at Cuddesdon and were escorted to his cottage home at Upper Heyford where they all gorged themselves on a strawberry and cream tea under the walnut tree! Yes, they were blessed with true hospitality and perfection was not having to do the washing-up afterwards.'

Warden Manor Project Reports: The 1993 Sutton Refugee Project

This was jointly funded by Toc H Warden Manor Fund and included donations from the residents of the village of Sutton, in rural Bedfordshire. Fourteen young refugees from Africa and the former Yugoslavia, who have lived in London for about a year, were chosen to sample life in the English countryside. Seven volunteers assisted the group and the village hall was the focus of the weekend activities, which included walks, bicycle rides and boating on the river Ouse. A high-spot of the project was a 'song and dance' supper evening with friends from the village.

The warmth of the village's welcome was heartfelt and quite unforgettable. The refugees cooked a barbecue at the village pub on the Sunday for all concerned, including Toc H guests from the Region. That was not the end of it all, because the group from London have maintained strong contact with the village and there has even been a donation of badly needed educational sponsorship. Our hope is that another group will be invited to the village in 1994 - we know of at least 100 other children and young people of refugee status - and that our links with our 'pioneer' group will strengthen.



The Multi-Activity in the Lakes Project

This is an annual weekend project which includes hill walking and canoeing. The group live at the Weirside Centre and the Birmingham Outward Group lend their minibus and equipment, such as canoes and waterproofs. While the lakes are renowned for rain, *Rob Hilderley of the Birmingham Outward Group*, reports that some parts of the weekend are always dry and that the group walk in whatever conditions the weather presents. It is all part of the fun! One recent participant was disappointed that the Saturday walk was only a

mere six miles rather than the anticipated twelve. Having not taken the hills into account, the complainer only just managed to cope with the task. It is important that the group is properly equipped, that the activity stays within the bounds of everyone's ability, and has been planned thoroughly.

Learning how to walk safely is one of the aims of the weekend. This includes food, equipment, route planning, navigation, emergency planning and the walk itself. The leaders recognise that not

everyone wants to learn these techniques, but they do want participants to be aware of the effort required to walk safely, even if they just want to admire the view. The group is normally split into two - one walking and one canoeing. Then everyone swaps on the Sunday. Leaders try to teach everyone about navigation in the evening. Sometimes volunteers are asked to plan their own walk and then to lead it on the Sunday. This can have very interesting results!



New Members

Welcome to 10 new members

Ernest Davenport (Avon District)

Bette Kenyon (Brandon J)

Brian R Stapleton (Chisledon M)

Carl Attrill,

Miss Alison Goffe,

Colin Goffe,

Perry Goodman

Mark Hammersley,

Hiede Sheath (Jaywick J Group)

Robert D R Ray (Warwickshire District)

Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members

In July

- Gwilym E Roberts (Bala)

In August

- Gordon Ackroyd
(St Anne's-on-Sea)

- Albert E Denning
(Gloucester)

- Malcolm D Edmonds
(Wellingborough)

In September

- Kathleen E Grimoldby
(South Yorks District)

- Arthur E Kitch (Chard)

- Thomas Hill Long (North
Bucks with Oxford District)

- Winifred D Reed

(Downend)

- Marjorie F Riggs (Seaford)

- Geoffrey V Sheen
(Clacton on Sea)

- Reginald D Smith
(Norwich District)

- Douglas M Haller
(Rushden)

- Dorothy Willis
(South Lincs District)

Special Tributes

Reginald Denham Smith (Reg) died peacefully in hospital in Norwich, his birthplace, on 12 September. Throughout his long life and varied service, he always retained his broad Norfolk accent. He was an active member of Norwich Branch when he was invited to join the staff in 1936. Between then and his retirement in 1972 he served in Leeds, Norwich, Bristol, Norwich again and finally Exeter. He was expecting a posting to Australia in 1938, with his newly married wife Joan, but the Munich crisis intervened. He spent the first part of the War in charge of an ambulance detachment from Norfolk, but the latter part was spent as part of the Toc H War Services staff, organising canteens and clubs. After the War, many members remember, with gratitude, the role of Joan and Reg in running Farnham Castle Holiday Weeks. The tribute once paid to him by the then Chairman of the Norfolk Sue Ryder Committee sums up Reg's life. She said, 'This is the man who keeps us all friends'.

EAE/JM

Malcolm Edmonds died on the 29 August at the age of 80. Everyone who came into contact with him was impressed by his quiet and very honest outlook on life. He became a Toc H member in Madras, India in 1936 and came to Wellingborough 35 years ago. A Toc H member for 57 years, he was previously a dedicated treasurer and valued helper on the library rounds. Malcolm and his wife quietly celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary only a few months ago. His contribution to Toc H was truly an example to members and his light certainly 'shone before all men'.

RN

St Anne's Branch have lost a valued and long serving member with the death on 17 August of Gordon Ackroyd, at the age of

78. He served Toc H for over 60 years, first becoming involved through the Boys Clubs. He was initiated into the Blackpool Men's Branch and came to St Anne's when Thornton Branch closed. He will be sadly missed for his true Toc H spirit and practical Christianity. We give thanks for his life.

KC

Kathleen Grimoldby died on 5 September aged 86. She was a founder member of Ecclesfield Branch where she worked very hard and, when the branch closed, Kathleen became a South Yorkshire District Branch member.

FT

Winifred Reed died suddenly on 7 September aged 80. A founder member of Downend Women's Branch in 1962, she served as treasurer from 1963-1990. Win was an active member, attending District activities and often joining in the 'quiet' weekends at Compton Durville. Always a popular and loved loyal member and a committed Christian, she will be sadly missed by all her Toc H family and friends.

GT

It is with regret that Rushden Men's Branch record the sudden death on 7 September of their much valued secretary, Douglas Marshall Waller. During the war he served with the 8th Army from El Alamein to Austria and was awarded the Military Medal in Northern Italy. He had been a member for over 20 years and will be greatly missed.

JH

Dot Turner, a member of Kempston Joint Branch, died at her daughter's home in South Africa on 29 July. It was Dot who came up with the idea of starting the Kempston Charity Shop. A remembrance service was held in Bedford and at Alison House a rose bush has been dedicated in her memory.

PT

Funds For CAMEOS

The CEC have set up a Cameo Development Group to encourage and oversee the growth of Cameos. It has a small sum of 'seedcorn' money which it can allocate (up to a maximum of £300 to any one Cameo) to encourage new Cameos. Any person wishing to know more about its availability and the conditions necessary for the grant to be made, should write to the Methods Administration Officer at HQ.

John Biggerstaff, Toc H,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

Equal Opportunities?

A Toc H Cameo - 28/30 January 1994

We know that the colour of a man's skin can affect his chances of finding a job and women can get paid less for the same work as men. Your accent can ruin your chances of promotion or it might give you an unfair advantage.

Toc H is committed to reducing prejudice and ignorance. A small group will be meeting to discuss equality and discrimination, not only in the work place but throughout our lives. We shall try to understand more about prejudice and how we can be both victims and oppressors. We shall challenge our own personal values and judgements in an attempt to change the society in which we live.

If you would like to know more about this Cameo, please write to: Brenda Ward, 26 Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 6RX.

Talbot House Association

Slessor Visitor Centre, Talbot House

The Slessor Visitor Centre is now open and any memorabilia/ artefacts relating to Talbot House and Toc H which could be used for the permanent exhibition there would be very welcome.

In the first instance, please contact Stewart Casimir at Headquarters.

Planning a Branch Quiz Night?

We have compiled a new quiz of Toc H history in card index format, which may be borrowed by any branch wishing to brush up on the Movement's history.

*Please write to Jackie Bartlett,
Head of Training, at
Wendover if you want to
borrow this.*

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Intergroup Event - 27/ 30 May 1994

(venue to be decided- Advance Notice)

Over the past 12 months members and staff have had opportunities to learn about how people behave in groups.

The Intergroup Event is the next stage on from this when people will develop some understanding of how a number of small groups behave in relation to each other.

We hope you will sign up for this if you have previously taken part in the People in Groups events which have been run during 1993, or if you have had other experience in small groups.

This event is planned to take place over the bank holiday so that members will be able to attend for the slightly longer period of four days.

Details will follow early in the New Year, but to book a place or get further information please contact Jackie Bartlett or Janet Graves at Headquarters.

Christmas at Khasdobir

Notelets: No message inside. Ideal as gifts, they can be used all year round as greeting cards or opened out for letter writing. Pack of 10: £2.00 + 36p p&p per pack

Christmas Cards: Designed by Dan Jones.
Message inside: *Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.*

Pack of 10 (one design): £1.00 + 36p p&p



Please mark envelopes *Friends of Khasdobir* and make cheques payable to Toc H

Friends of Khasdobir

Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire. HP22 6BT. Tel: (0296) 623911

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

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